

MINERAL KING

MINERAL KING needs support now as never before. There is only one way to protect it from present or future plans for despoliation and that is to transfer it to the National Park System. There is a bill in the House of Representatives that will do just that. It has much more support than previous bills (65 co-sponsors at the last count). It may well represent the best opportunity to get M-K into Sequoia National Park. But massive public support is essential. Please write (again, if you have already) to your Congressman (House Office Bldg., Washn., DC 20515) AND to your Senators (Senate Office Bldg., Washn., DC 20510) asking them to support legislation to add Mineral King to Sequoia National Park.

MINERAL KING is a glacial basin, about two miles long and a quarter mile wide surrounded on three sides by Sequoia National Park. It is rimmed with peaks rising three to four thousand feet above the valley floor to heights of 12,000 feet. Six streams cascade into the valley and join to form the headwaters of the East Fork of the Kaweah River.

A number of alpine lakes, nestled in glacial cirques, lie within a few hours walking distance from the roadhead at Mineral King Village, from which trails radiate in all directions into the Sequoia National Park and the Little Kern territory of Sequoia National Forest.

M-K presently serves as a recreational area for hikers, fishermen, campers, and cross-country skiers. It is also used as a base for exploring the surrounding wilderness.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT would provide for a potential annual attendance of 2,835,000 visitors (more than Yosemite!).....two lodging and shopping complexes in the valley complete with swimming pools, restaurants, ice rinks, shops, covered walks and malls.....additional restaurants at Eagle Crest and at Miner's Ridge high above the valley floor.....a multi-storied parking facility in the middle of the winter range of the M-K deer herd at Oak Grove.....and 18 ski lifts into the high-altitude cirques that are presently pristine wilderness areas.



THE DESTRUCTIVE RESULTS of development would include irreparable damage to the entire areaprobable damage to Sequoia Big Trees due to road widening.....greatly increased impact on adjacent Sequoia National Park wilderness.....extreme degradation of the wildlife habitat (*"All resident species (of wildlife) will be reduced in number." The Mineral King deer herd is already declining;* California Dept. of Fish & Game.).....unacceptable erosion. (The soil at M-K is highly erosive, according to the Environmental Statement.) (*"Even small increases in sedimentation may be detrimental to the stream biota of the East Fork of the Kaweah."* Calif. DFG.).....shortened life for Lake Kaweah due to increased erosion rates..... *"impose an additional 810 thousand cars annually on Tulare County;* (County Planning Dept.) - (Supreme Court Justice Blackmun estimated that a car would pass any given point on the M-K road every six seconds.)"substantial increases in air pollution with subsequent damage to agricultural crops in the San Joaquin Valley as well as to the flora of M-K and environs.....*"greatly increased fire risk due to the greater number of people in the dry brushy areas below M-K,"* (Tulare County Fire Warden).....horrendous transportation problems (*"I don't believe the road can be upgraded to serve the peak demand."* *"Highway 168 would have to be widened to four lanes to Three Rivers at a cost of up to one million dollars per mile;"* Tulare County Dir. of Public Works.)impose a high price on vacationers to visit M-K. (*"The cost of transportation into the valley is high enough that it may be prohibitive to many low-income families;"* quote from the Environmental Statement itself.)

THERE ARE RUMORS that the Forest Service will soon propose a scaled-down version of the original pernicious plan; i.e., development of only two or three lifts and construction of all facilities at Silver City (a mile or two out of M-K valley). If released, it will be a proposal to destroy only part of the magnificent landscape, rather than most of it.

But there can be no assurances from the Forest Service that a smaller development would not be the vanguard for more and still more development later on. In any event, it would be ridiculous to accept a lesser degradation of this priceless natural resource in return for vague promises to refrain from total degradation. There is only one Mineral King. It must not be degraded at all!!

Please write to your Congressman and Senators.

Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club
Fresno Audubon Society
Friends of the Earth



MINERAL KING

PARKLAND OR WASTELAND?

"The perversion of public land to private profit through this ugly project is scandalous."

Hon. Phillip Burton

Sierra Club
Tehipite Chapter

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